

**TRI-STATE RADIO PLANNING COMMITTEE  
REGIONAL PLANNING UPDATE COMMITTEE  
800 MHz  
FCC-REGION 8**



**FCC CT. N.J. N.Y.**

**Peter Meade, Chairman  
Assistant Fire Marshal  
Fire & Rescue Services  
Nassau County Fire Commission  
140 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Mineola, NY 11501**

February 28, 2006

FILED ELECTRONICALLY

Ms. Marlene Dortch, Esq.  
Secretary  
Federal Communication Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Ex Parte Filing, WTB 02-55*

*Support of the National Association of Regional Planning Committees' (NARPC's)  
Petition for Rulemaking on the regional prioritization of newly available 800-MHz public  
safety spectrum.*

Dear Ms. Dortch,

The Region 8 800-MHz NPSPAC Regional Planning Committee (RPC) is responsible for planning, administering, and coordinating six Megahertz of Public Safety 800-MHz spectrum over the greater Metropolitan New York City area. This area is one of the most spectrum-challenged regions of the U.S., and the Region's public safety agencies are critically short of spectrum resources to support their operations.

Led by a request from Region 8, the National Association of Regional Planning Committees (NARPC) filed a Petition for Rulemaking in July 2005, requesting that the FCC employ a prioritization matrix to disseminate non-NPSPAC Public Safety spectrum that is made available after the 800-MHz rebanding process has been completed. NARPC further indicated that the use of this methodology would be limited to Regions of the country that chose to "Opt-In" to such a process. These sentiments were followed up and further expanded upon by the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council in a filing in November 2005,

For Regions that choose to employ it, Region 8 strongly supports the use of a priority matrix, because it would ensure a logical and effective release of critical spectrum

resources. In fact, Region 8 expects that, without such a process being followed, there would be no possibility in many areas for the licenses to be granted in the ways that would most benefit public safety. As with RPCs in general, we feel that the Region 8 RPC is fully qualified to make this assessment due to its vast experience in distributing spectrum fairly to public safety agencies. In general:

- The application matrix prioritization process will be a better way to assign and distribute spectrum needs for public safety.
- The use of a priority matrix would increase efficiency and the effectiveness of usage of spectrum in Region 8 and in many other areas of the Country. Use of the RPC priority matrix would also reduce potential inter-regional prioritization conflicts, because agencies that might have conflicts would have already contributed to the process of creating the priority matrix.

We believe that, at a minimum, the FCC should immediately commence a Notice of Inquiry (ideally, a Rulemaking proceeding) to consider NARPC's Petition for Rulemaking. We believe that the NARPC and NPSTC filings both clearly demonstrate that Consideration of a matrix process by the commission is clearly warranted and in the public's best interests. Further, we feel that such a proceeding could have a substantial positive impact on effectively granting spectrum resources that are critical to public safety in severely challenged areas of the Country.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Meade", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Meade, Region 8 700/800-MHz Chair